

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Soviets charge West with demagogy over human rights

MOSCOW, March 17 (AP). — The chief Soviet delegate to the Belgrade conference charged today that the West had engaged in "unremitting demagogy" over human rights at the just-completed Helsinki review meeting. The Soviet official, Yuli M. Vorontsov, asserted that throughout the Belgrade gathering delegations from the United States and other Western nations "bent their efforts at diverting the meeting into the channel of psychological warfare. At times the positions of these delegations called to mind the cold-war period very much indeed," Vorontsov told a news conference.

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Price: Jordan 80 fils; Syria 80 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Bomb kills two near Bilbao

BILBAO, Spain, March 17 (AP). — A bomb killed two persons today and injured 10 others at the Lemoniz Nuclear Energy Plant under construction outside Bilbao, plant officials said. The blast came 10 minutes after a telephone caller told officials at the \$1b. plant where two U.S. Westinghouse Corp. reactors are being installed that a bomb would go off. Police said they suspected the Basque separatist organisation ETA which has launched a series of bomb attacks against the 70 per cent completed plant. Demonstrators Sunday called for ETA to blow up the plant before the reactors begin operating next year.

Cubans hail Ethiopian victory

AIROBI, Kenya, March 17 (AP). — Cuba's Foreign Minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski hailed Ethiopia's victory over Somalia forces that invaded the Ogaden as a triumph for the continent's stability in Africa. He said the expulsion of the Somalis from the Ogaden, said Peoli, as a "contribution to the struggle of all African people for peace and stability in the continent since attempts to change borders by force have been rejected." The Somali forces who occupied the Ogaden in a bid to annex it were crushed this month by an Ethiopian counter-offensive that was reportedly headed by some of the 1,000 Cubans troops in the area.

Church leaders condemn "vicious circle of violence" in M.E.

GENEVA, Switzerland, March 17 (AP). — The World Council of Churches (WCC) Friday characterised Israel's attack on the PLO guerrilla stronghold in south Lebanon as a "vicious circle of violence." In a statement issued today, the organisation expressed "regret at the massive Israeli invasion of Lebanon" and called on both parties to peaceably resolve the Middle East conflict. "We cannot conceive that this vicious circle of violence will ever be solved unless all parties involved insist equally on the need to respect secure and recognised borders for the state of Israel and upon the need to recognise and implement Palestinians' rights to self-determination and to their own homeland."

POPE CRITICIZES ISRAELI BOMBING

VATICAN CITY, March 17 (AP). — Pope Paul VI criticised today the "indiscriminate bombing by Israel of unarmed people in refugee camps and Lebanese cities" in a telegram of condolences to the Apostolic Nuncio to Lebanon, the Vatican announced. The telegram, signed by Secretary of State Cardinal Jean-Marie Villot, said the Pope was "deeply saddened for the victims caused in such large number" by the bombings. It said the pontiff extended his condolences "to authorities and the families of the Lebanese and Palestinian victims." The Pope had sent a similar telegram of condolences to the Palestinian attack on a bus between Tel Aviv and Haifa last week.

CYCLONE HITS NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI, March 17 (Agencies). — At least a dozen people were killed in Delhi when a cyclone hit the northern part of the capital this evening. Vehicles were overturned, trees uprooted and roofs blown off. It was the first time in living memory that Delhi has been hit by a cyclone. Unconfirmed reports quoted by Samachar news agency said more than 100 were injured.



The dead are removed from two cars struck by Israeli shellfire on the coastal highway of southern Lebanon early Friday. The cars were packed with Lebanese refugees fleeing the fighting in the south. (AP wirephoto)

U.S. calls for Israeli withdrawal, favours U.N. buffer force

WASHINGTON, March 17 (R). — The United States last night called on Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and said it favoured stationing United Nations peacekeeping troops in the area. "We expect Israel to withdraw and we have made our views in this respect known to the Israeli government," a statement issued on behalf of President Carter said. But a State Department spokesman declined to say whether Israel would have to withdraw before, after or simultaneously with introduction of new security arrangements in the 100-km-long belt in southern Lebanon seized by Israeli troops earlier this week.

U.S. will support Lebanon

"The territorial integrity of Lebanon remains of fundamental concern to the United States," the statement said. Spokesman Hodding Carter said the United States would support Lebanon's call today for an emergency United Nations Security Council meeting to discuss the Israeli raids. The U.S. also would support a Security Council resolution that called for stationing international peacekeeping forces in the area, he said. But he indicated opposition to any resolution calling only for Israeli withdrawal and not for new security measures for the region.

Italian police mount massive hunt for Moro's kidnappers in a desperate race against time

ROME, March 17 (Agencies). — Police made house-to-house searches in Rome today in the hunt for ex-Premier Aldo Moro and his Red Brigades guerrilla kidnappers. The police theory was that the 12 abductors of Signor Moro, 61, went into hiding close to the place where they grabbed him and shot dead his five bodyguards yesterday. More than 1,000 policemen, some in bullet-proof vests, fanned out through the Monte Mario district of Rome after a court authorised the search of homes in the locality. Earlier today a bloodstained car was found on a street in the area. Police believed the blood was that of a kidnapper, although they did not discount the possibility that Signor Moro was hurt. Five times premier, and now president of the ruling Christian Democrats, he has been widely tipped as the next president. Christian Democrat Premier Giulio Andreotti, newly voted

Dollar continues slide against Japanese yen

TOKYO, March 17 (Agencies). — Senior Japanese government officials said today their country might have to take unilateral action to curb exports after the dollar closed at its lowest postwar level of 230 yen. Following the yen's continuous advance against the dollar in spite of heavy Bank of Japan intervention, the officials said Japan would like to cooperate with the United States and West Germany in finding means to prop up the sagging U.S. currency. After falling to a record low against the yen in Tokyo today, the dollar plunged even further against the Japanese yen when European foreign exchanges opened for the day. The dollar closed in Tokyo at 230.025 yen, and fell further at the opening in Frankfurt where it began the day at a record opening low of 229.85 yen. One West German dealer

As fighting continues for third day King appeals for decisive Arab action on Lebanon situation

AMMAN, March 17 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein tonight called for an urgent Arab summit for consultation and agreement on an urgent and deep-reaching programme of action to face up to the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and to prevent the perpetuation of this new occupation. In a nation-wide speech, broadcast over Jordan Television and Radio the King called on the Arab leaders to rise to their national responsibility in order that the Arab nation may not continue to "see itself being eroded bit by bit, its limbs being chopped off and its honour humiliated, without being able to prevent or stop this."

During the past few days, King Hussein continued, Israeli forces of aggression have moved into Lebanon's southern areas and forcefully occupied a large portion of Lebanese territory, imposing a new political, geographical and military fait accompli on the Arab Nation and the world. In the face of this, the world has neither moved nor denounced this event audibly and effectively. Nor has "our Arab World taken an organised or brave step to repulse the Israeli aggression, or prevent it and stop the massacre of which the Palestinians are the victims."

The King recalled that he had personally warned in successive Arab summits before and after the July 1967 catastrophe against Zionist ambitions on the river sources in south Lebanon and the source of the Jordan River itself, saying this was a grave situation that would bear careful watching unless Lebanon was provided with all the necessary means for its defence and protection.

The King deplored what he called the atmosphere of lethargy, fossilisation and indifference dominating the Arab attitude. The Arab leadership should answer these questions today in a responsible, courageous and wise manner, without useless passion, rancour against one's self and brother and placing the blame on others, King Hussein added.

Calling for an urgent Arab summit to agree on an urgent and deep programme of action, His Majesty urged that Arab leadership should not let the new Lebanese catastrophe pass without confronting it in order to prevent perpetuation of the new Israeli occupation. The King warned that an Arab summit would not be deeply effective unless all parties concerned commit themselves to confront the Israeli ex-

into office by a majority including the Communists for the first time in 31 years, summoned leaders of the five majority parties to chart tough anti-terrorist policies. Signor Moro had been one of the main architects of the pact under which the Communists agreed to join in the pro-government majority in exchange for an equal role as the other four parties in contributing to cabinet policies and monitoring their fulfillment. A group of five state prosecutors worked around the clock to coordinate investigations. Chief Prosecutor Giovanni di Matteo said the government might consider proclaiming a "state of public danger" under which habeas corpus provisions would be suspended de facto and arrests could be quickly decided by government commissioners.

Some 20 hours after the 12 commandos snatched Italy's most influential politician, authorities said they believed the group and their victim were still inside Rome but they had no precise clue as to their whereabouts. A series of anonymous calls to news media in various cities claimed responsibility for the Red Brigades, the most feared urban guerrilla group that rejects the "Eurocommunist" policies of the huge Communist Party as a sell-out of genuine Marxist revolution and dictatorship of the proletariat.

One telephone call in Turin a few hours after the kidnapping threatened Signor Moro would be killed within 48 hours unless some 20 jailed terrorists, including 15 Red Brigade chiefs on trial in Turin, are released. Another message in Naples in the evening said Moro had been "executed".

Arabs urged to hang on

In Kuwait, the investment advisor of the Kuwait government Thursday urged Arab investors to retain their dollar investments. "It is in the best interests of Arab investors to retain their investments in the dollar, since any transfer into other currencies will certainly involve them in losses," Khalid Abu Saud told a local magazine. Furthermore, interest rates are higher in the dollar," added Abu Saud who has the official title of Chief Investment Adviser of the Government of Kuwait.

Khaddam meets Sarkis

Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam met Lebanese President Elias Sarkis in the Presidential Palace today.

Mr. Khaddam said Syrian President Hafez Assad had sent a message of support to President Sarkis reaffirming his country's support of Lebanon "in the wake of Israeli aggression."

At the United Nations Israel and Lebanon both sought a meeting of the U.N. Security Council today to discuss recent developments along their joint border.

Israel complained about "continuous acts of terror and violence" carried out from Lebanon in order to sabotage Middle East peace efforts. It stressed it was not complaining about Lebanon itself.

The Lebanese delegation to the U.N. said it would make an official request for a meeting.

Syrian air defences alerted

Syria put its entire air defence system on alert with orders for prompt intervention to defend any area under peacekeepers' control in Lebanon against Israeli attacks, the commander of the Syrian backed Saiga guerrilla group announced at the Presidential Palace.

Syrian MIG-21 interceptors were flying constant patrols along the Lebanese Syrian border, ready to intervene in Lebanon, said Zubair Mohsen, who also is the head of the Military Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Reporters at the hilltop palace overlooking the capital said the roar of warplanes flying at high altitude was heard as Mohsen spoke. But no one could tell whether the planes were Syrian or Israeli.

Guerrillas in south Lebanon told an American photographer they had found the tail of an Israeli rocket, bearing Hebrew markings, lying near the two blown-up cars. They said the corpses of women, children and men in the two cars were so badly mangled by the explosions that a body count was difficult. One unconfirmed report spoke of 20 dead.

Reporters saw pieces of human flesh at the edges of a blanket thrown over the wreckage to cover the carnage on the coastal highway.

Aadoun is midway between Tyre, 12 miles north of the Israeli border, and the port

city of Sidon, 25 miles farther north.

Tibnine said captured

The rocket attack occurred seven miles below the southernmost position of Syrian-dominated Arab league peacekeeping forces.

Observers reported Israeli helicopters landed paratroopers at two other villages north and east of Tyre, where radical guerrillas are believed to maintain rocket launching bases.

Official reports reaching the Presidential Palace in Beirut said Israeli paratroopers captured the strategic tank-ringed guerrilla stronghold of Tibnine at mid-day after a savage air and tank-gun bombardment that left much of the town ablaze.

Tibnine's fall brought Israeli forces pushing westward from the slopes of Mount Hermon close to a link up with invading units advancing inland from Mediterranean beach heads, five miles south of Tyre.

The link up would seal off a seven mile guerrilla-free buffer zone stretching along 40 miles on Israel's northern flank in south Lebanon.

The rightist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station reported an Israeli paratroop landing in Tyre itself after a murderous barrage from missileboats that wrecked large parts of the Bi-

blical city, including its famous fish market. Guerrillas denied the report.

Israeli armour shook off guerrilla "counterattack tactics" and captured four Palestinian strongholds around Tibnine before closing the ring.

BRITAIN SUPPORTS U.S. PROPOSALS

LONDON, March 17 (AP). — Britain today backed President Carter's call for Israel to withdraw its troops from south Lebanon, possibly to be replaced by an international peace-keeping force.

A foreign office statement said Britain had already assured the Lebanese government of its "continuing full support for Lebanon's full independence and territorial integrity."

"The threat to Israel's security from terrorist activity in south Lebanon can in our view most effectively be countered by the establishment of an international force with the Lebanese government's support," the statement said.

PLO appeals to Sadat for end to "boycott"

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 17 (AP). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation appealed to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat Thursday to end his "boycott" of the Palestinians and dispatch an envoy to Lebanon. Zakaria Abdul Rahim, PLO representative in Cyprus, said in a statement "there is no justification for (Egyptian) silence, while the Palestinian people is being massacred in south Lebanon."

"The least President Sadat could do is to dispatch an Egyptian personality. Our disputes must not mean boycotting us," he said.

"As is Egypt's custom, it should rise above all differences and wounds. History will record the magnanimity of Arab rulers, or alternatively, will curse them. The situation is grave and the strong and noble know the methods of confronting it," he added.

The deterioration of relations between the PLO and Sadat since Sadat's visit to Israel last November was further aggravated by the assassination of prominent Egyptian journalist Youssef Sabai by two Palestinian gunmen in Nicosia on Feb. 18.

In Cairo an official of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation said PLO leader Yasser Arafat had called for an immediate intervention by Egypt and other Arab countries to stop the Israeli operations.

Fighting concentrated around crusader castle as guerrillas Israeli settlements

QLETA, Occupied Lebanon, March 17 (AP). — Israeli artillery and air power pummeled guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon Friday, the third day of Israeli occupation, in a mopping up operation that seemed to independent observers to be far from over.

In the eastern sector of the 932 sq. km. Israeli enclave toured by a reporter, fighting concentrated on remaining guerrilla strongholds north of Beaufort castle about five miles northwest of the Israeli town of Metulla.

The military command in Tel Aviv had no comment on reports from Beirut of an Israeli commando operation near the seaport of Tyre, to the west.

Across the Israeli border, a guerrilla-fired Katyusha rocket smashed into a house but caused no injuries. Civil guardsmen reported other rockets around neighbouring settlements.

"We were sir-boly back porch. Sudden explosion and cracked our windows. The walls. The with sm" Reuven,

The rocket left a gaping hole in the roof of the unoccupied house next to Reuven's. Air raid sirens shrieked periodically. Schoolchildren were dismissed early and went underground to shelters.

Katyushas land

In Qlefa, a tiny village a half-mile from the Israeli frontier, residents reported rockets of Palestinian guerrillas in the surrounding hills.

"Fateh -- over there, over there," said Rizk Saris, a grizzled farmer, sweeping his arm in a wide arc at ridges to the west and north.

"Katyushas land here today, yesterday," he said in elementary Hebrew. "There is no quiet."

Artillery fire cracked from the Israeli side of the border and white puffs of smoke floated forward beyond the hilltop ruins of Beaufort castle.

Israel radio reported that invasion forces had uncovered munition dump

Weizman told reporters in nearby Marjayoun that Israel would consider a U.S. proposal to replace the Israeli troops with a U.N. peacekeeping force.

But other Israeli sources in Jerusalem had doubts that Prime Minister Menachem Begin would find the U.S. idea appealing.

The sources said Israel's response would depend on the effectiveness of such a force in keeping out guerrillas from the area Israel has now established as a cordon sanitaire. The composition of the force also would be decisive, these qualified sources said.

Weizman said Israel would consider "anything that is likely to lead to a solution."

Soldiers in the Israeli-occupied area of Lebanon reported continued fighting, although it was not clear if ground forces were involved. Israeli jets flew high overhead as reporters were stopped by a roadblock near Rub Talatin. "You can't go on, the road may be mined," said one trooper. An officer in a jeep asked the correspondents what they were doing. "There's still shooing here," he said.

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 جريدة يمنية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Editor: HANI G. KHOURI
Managing Editor: JENAB TUTUNJI
Deputy Managing Editor: BASSAM BISHUTI
Editorial Staff: ALAN MARTINY
Board of Directors: JUMA'A HAMAD, RAJA ELISSA, MOHAMAD AMAD, MAHMOUD AL KAYED
Responsible Editor: MOHAMAD AMAD

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
 Telephones: 67171-2-3-4

Tlx: 1497 Al Rai JO, Cables: JORTIMES, Amman Jordan

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Israel's quagmire

For all the fancy arguments put forth by Israeli leaders about the need to establish a "security zone" along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, the fact that will become more evident as the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon drags on is that Israel is stepping into a losing battle as the United States did in Vietnam. Better than the Vietnam analogy, however, is that of the American invasion of Cambodia on April 30, 1970, an operation undertaken, we were told, because of the United States' need to destroy Viet Cong supply bases and infiltration routes. This week, Israel sends all its weapons and 25,000 soldiers into south Lebanon to cut off Palestinian guerrillas and stop them launching raids from there into Israel. We know what happened in Cambodia, and we will eventually see it happen in south Lebanon, because in both cases we have a state with many guns and thousands of soldiers endeavouring to use this massive firepower to secure its own territorial safety. But in both cases, the great self-deception that is carried out is temporarily obscured by the sound of the guns and the drama of massive military operations, and it will be shown once again that there is no security in invasions and occupations.

The United States had 543,400 soldiers in Vietnam at the height of its activities there in April 1969. The Israelis are starting out with 25,000 soldiers in south Lebanon, and are now making the exact same calls that the Americans made, calls for secure border areas, for the elimination of guerrilla bases, and so on and so forth. What the Israelis will learn, as the Americans learned, is that guerrilla activity is a state of mind, not a piece of land. Guerrilla activity emanates from the heart of an entire people, not from square kilometres in south Lebanon.

We saw last week that there is no foolproof security system that Israel can devise to keep out Palestinian resistance fighters. If Tel Aviv cannot be protected, how does Israel propose to pacify hundreds of square kilometres of south Lebanon?

Israel's massive invasion is a reflection of its massive frustration. It will learn, as the Americans learned, that guerrillas vanish before invading armies only to return to strike you somewhere else. Israel is not creating a security zone in south Lebanon. It is stepping into its own Vietnam, its own quagmire.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In its editorial Friday AL RAI deplores what it called the Arab failure to back the Palestinian commandos in confronting "the ferocious Israeli attack on south Lebanon last Tuesday." If there was no help of any kind forthcoming, the newspaper adds, the invasion should at least serve as an incentive for the Arabs to drop their differences in a concerted effort to "determine their future clearly towards the Palestine issue and towards the racist Zionist presence in the heart of the Arab world."

In the same grievous tone AL DUSTOUR points out that by losing its southern area Lebanon now stands on an equal footing with other Arab countries which lost parts of their land to Israel in the 1967 war.

It says now Lebanon, like the others, will start demanding the "elimination of the vestiges of the aggression", and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the "occupied" area.

"We might also go further to imagine Israel demanding to set up settlements in south Lebanon, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin claiming that it is also part of the "liberated" land of Israel," Al Dustour says.

Bread, bread, bread--pours out of Amman's ovens to meet demand for Arab's basic food

Text and photos
 By Marianne Pearson
 Special to the Jordan Times

Bread is a basic food for the Arabs. The Arab world depends on it more than other countries and it is the most important item consumed by all classes of society, but especially the poor, according to Abdullah Hamadneh, Research Officer at the Ministry of Supply.

It is a pleasant irony that in Amman, one of the world's most expensive cities, bread is cheaper than anywhere else. The government subsidizes it and, depending on the price of wheat, the amount it pays may be as much as 75 per cent of the cost. Price controllers from the Ministry of Supply check shops to see that the low, uniform price set by the government is honoured. A staff of quality controllers sees that a high standard is maintained. Infractions meet with stiff penalties -- fines, imprisonment, or closing of shops.

Home baking is in continuous decline in Jordan, as in the rest of the world. Probably only about ten to 15 per cent of bread is baked at home today.

Because there is a shortage of bread in the city, bakeries are not permitted to close, and the government encourages businessmen to set up private bakeries. It provides a standard flour to bakeries throughout the country for half the price of flour from Jordan-grown wheat which, in any event, is insufficient to meet the demand. Wheat grown in Jordan is used chiefly by the landowners and farmers who produce it. About 150,000 tons of hard red winter wheat are imported from the United States yearly.

The government's Automatic Bakery at Ras al Ain, which has been functioning since June 1977, is the world's first bakery to produce kema, the round, flat Arabic bread, automatically.

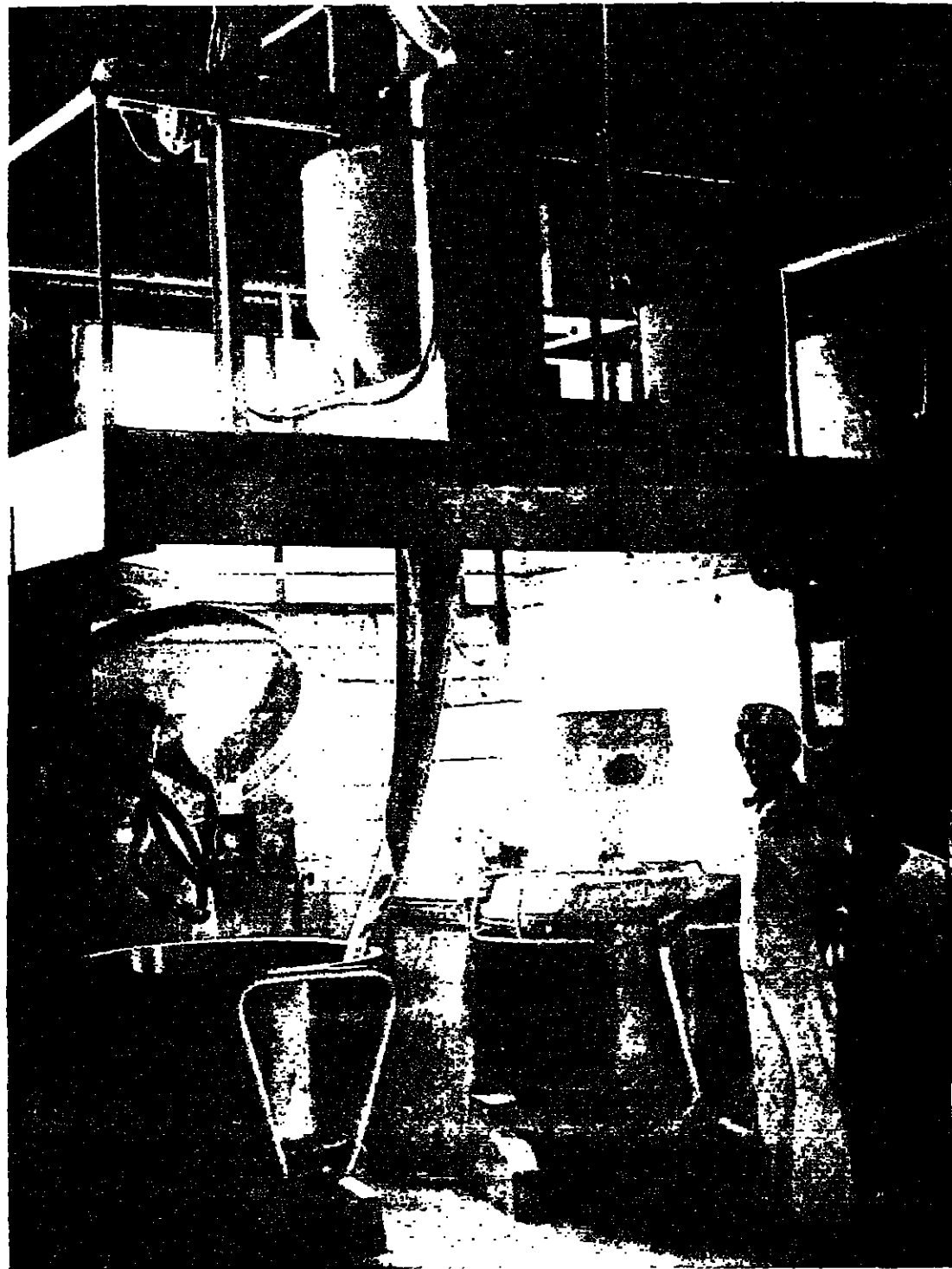
It produces 5,000 "loaves" in an hour on an assembly line which eliminates individual operations: mixing, kneading, proofing and baking occur in continuous process. The bakery employs 60 people, nine of them women. Already the largest in the country, Automatic Bakery is expected to more than double its production within a few months when a second line imported from Germany will be installed, capable of producing an additional 6,000 loaves an hour.

At present there are seven stalls in the city where Automatic Bakery bread is sold and six more will be added. The bread is also distributed to groceries and sold to restaurants.

In Amman there are at least 125 traditional bakeries, the smallest receiving about 500 kilos of flour daily. There is scarcely any neighbourhood without a convenient source of fresh bread.

In Jabal Hussein the Golden Loaf bakery, operated by three brothers, uses 1,000 kilos of flour a day. Bakers on the staff of 12 begin work at 4:00 a.m. and finish at noon. A day's production of bread is sold out by closing time, 7:00 p.m., or often before, with peak sales between 1:30 and 2:15 p.m. Relative popularity of Arabic and western-style sliced "toast" bread is shown in daily production figures: 5,000 Arabic loaves are produced as compared to 400 "toast" loaves.

Arabic bread consists simply of flour, water, salt, yeast and a little sugar. No enriching supplements are added, but the flour has a 12 per cent protein value. Bread customarily appears at meals three times a day. It is eaten plain, with butter, with humus or moutabbal, and as sandwiches. No meal is complete without it. Often, indeed, it is the meal.



At the Automatic Bakery ingredients for the dough are automatically measured and mixed continuously.



The Golden Loaf bakery is semi-automatic. This machine flattens rounds of Arabic bread dough for baking.



Traditional flour mills, like this one in Amman, handle wheat grown in Jordan. Five large modern mills handle imported wheat.



Baking bread the traditional way -- in goes thin, flat dough, out comes puffy Arabic bread. No rest for the baker.



Sandwich buns are shaped by hand at the Golden Loaf bakery.



Workmen lunching on bread.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Children's Art

The Department of Culture and Arts and the German Democratic Republic Embassy present an exhibition of about 60 paintings by young German artists. The exhibition is on display at the Palace of Culture, every day till next Sunday.

FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished bedroom and sitting room with telephone.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I am not sure who or what qualifies your resident cynic Bassam Bishuti (Absurdity's Loophole) to write so authoritatively on the Rhodesian situation (Jordan Times, March 11). Perhaps he has travelled in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe to you, Bassam) and is therefore in some position to dispense his particular brand of worldly wisdom on the subject. I would ask Bassam one question on Rhodesia. Reliable press reports (e.g. Newsweek, Feb. 27, 1978) attribute some 80 to 85 per cent of the Rhodesian black population as supporting the three internal nationalists Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau, who signed the

internal settlement agreement with Prime Minister Ian Smith. My question is, if 80 per cent isn't a democratic majority, representative of popular support, then perhaps Bassam would be kind enough to define "democracy" for me. Granted this 80 per cent has not been demonstrated in an organised poll, but if the Salisbury agreement is given half the chance it deserves, the proof of the pudding will be revealed in December this year. It seems the world will not accept the internal nationalists as genuine, because among other things they do not go around torturing and murdering villagers in front of their families! Finally, if Bassam (also

ng with the rest of the world) really believes that a peaceful transition to majority rule will follow if the Patriotic Front gets its way, then he must be as naive as he is cynical. In a world already filled to overflowing with cynicism, Bassam must be close to the top of the pile!

Yours faithfully,
 Archibald McIndoe
 Amman

Bassam Bishuti replies:

Your imagination, Mr. Archibald McIndoe, is as cloudy as your understanding. I am not going to be led into a spurious argument over something I never said because had

you understood my point you wouldn't have written your abusive letter -- unless it is in your nature to do so anyway. I suggest that you re-read the article you refer to maybe this time you will see that my beliefs in democracy are not at issue but the cynical politics of Western "democracies" are. Next time you write please don't abuse a writer or question his authority and wisdom because it is too easy for the writer to use the same terms in replying to you on a newspaper's pages. For you to inject the question of authority, wisdom and naivete into the subject shows your own particular sensitivity to these things -- not so Mr. McIndoe?

National News Roundup

Municipalities symposium opens in Irbid March 21

IRBID, March 17 (JNA). — A two-day municipal councils symposium in the Irbid Governorate is to start in the northern town of Shuneh on March 21. Representatives of 23 councils will meet to discuss ways of promoting public services in their region. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has prepared three working papers to be discussed by the participants. These tackle the financing and organisation of development projects and services in the governorate.

Yarmouk U.'s food analysis unit will be operating sooner than expected

IRBID, March 17 (JT). — Yarmouk University is speeding up plans to set up a special unit for food analysis. The service will be made available to government departments and private firms alike. The university's President Adnan Badran yesterday requested the Faculty of Sciences at Yarmouk to move forward the date for the formation of the unit since the Irbid Governorate lacks a proper laboratory for food analysis.

Arab seismological network under consideration

AMMAN, March 17 (JT). — The University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society are currently studying a memorandum by the Arab Scientific Research Councils Union on international cooperation in the field of seismology. Iraq had proposed to the union the establishment of a pan-Arab network of seismological observation centres. Iraq also suggested that the network cooperate with UNESCO and a number of well-known world seismological centres.

Profiteering merchants fined

AMMAN, March 17 (JT). — Fines ranging between JD 20 and JD 100 were imposed by a military court yesterday on 62 merchants throughout the country for profiteering and violating Ministry of Supply regulations.

U. of J. considers marine sciences research

AMMAN, March 17 (JT). — The University of Jordan is currently studying acting on the recommendations of the recent seminar on marine sciences at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, a university official said yesterday. The six-day seminar attended by department heads for Arab universities specialised in this field, called for the expansion of marine sciences research equipping adequate laboratories and providing reference books and periodicals dealing with the subject.

At the Haya Arts Centre

"Sudki Bey's Love" provides lighthearted treatment of one man's identity crisis

By Joyee Abou Jassar
Special to the Jordan Times

"Sudki Bey's Love" opened Thursday evening at the Haya Arts Centre and will continue nightly performances (8:00 p.m.) until the 23rd of this month. Featured are Nabil Sawalha as Sudki, Amina Bazoka as Rebab, and Zuhair Al Nobani as Samih. It is being directed by Nadim Sawalha, director, writer and internationally known actor, who has relinquished two weeks from a very busy and varied schedule to return to Jordan to supervise the production of "Sudki Bey's Love".

Translated into colloquial Arabic by Nabil Sawalha from the original American play "LUV", perhaps most widely known in the film adaptation starring Jack Lemon, the story is the lighthearted treatment of Sudki's identity crisis, perhaps more accurately the question haunting him was not "Who am I?" but "Why am I?" — the quest for knowledge of the eternal truth.

Sudki soliloquizes: "The first thing I want to know is the importance of our existence on the earth. I questioned everyone — without success. I became alienated, lost. I studied Buddhism and the Sanskrit language without finding any answer. My last decision was to put an end to my misery."

Rabab, his wife: "The result was that I got a cultured mind. The men were scared to death of me and ran away because I was a great threat to their masculinity — built on the precept that woman is stupid."

Samih, his best friend: "You (Sudki) inherited a small amount of money; I didn't have anything but a pair of light hands and a fast eye. When you said 'I couldn't be done' I did it."

Sudki's problems were his false spiritual premises, imagination, fear. He had to face the truth with all the troubles and difficulties it brought in its



Nabil Sawalha, Nadim Sawalha and Zuhair Al Nobani (from left to right) rehearse for Sudki Bey's Love which will run at the Haya Arts Centre March 16-23.

wake, its completely jealous demands in life. Rebab, the perfect example of our educated young women, was lost between the old and the new, knowledge and ignorance, Sudki and Samih. Samih, in his quest, for the material benefits of the good life, becomes disillusioned. The problems of these three and the final solution furnish a plentiful entertainment for an enjoyable evening.

Nabil Sawalha, who plays the title role of Sudki, studied engineering in London in 1960 and began his acting career there with the BBC, then returned to Jordan and contributed greatly to the development of the dramatic arts here. He currently is serving as director of the Haya Arts Centre and participates actively in the drama section there.

Amina Bazoka, who plays Rebab, graduated from the Jordan University then began her acting career here in the productions of Bury the Dead, The

Pub, The Barber of Baghdad and also appeared in the Jordanian production of The Sour Grapes. She works in the Administration Department of Jordan University and has a weekly television programme entitled The Children's World.

Zuhair Al Nobani, who portrays Samih, started his acting in 1968 at Jordan University and participated in other local productions in the same year. He went on to earn degrees in administration and political science during 1974-1977 while continuing his acting career both in the theatre and on television. To his credit are roles in The Barber of Baghdad, The Revolution of the Dead, the television series The Treasure and The Wall of Thorns. He will shortly leave the country for the completion of his theatrical training abroad.

Director of Sudki Bey's Love Nadim Sawalha has returned briefly to Jordan especially for this play. Principally his work

Absurdity's loophole

By Bassam Bishuti

Good guys and bad guys

The similarity between Israel and Rhodesia is striking. Both are controlled by alien, colonialist regimes: both regimes are challenged by native, but exiled, guerrillas; both regimes have very recently launched massive attacks into the territories of neighbouring sovereign states (Lebanon and Zambia) in pursuit of these guerrillas and both regimes have developed relations with native "moderates" who have proved they are ready to forsake eventual independence in their lands in return for a share in power with the colonialist regimes. The similarity also extends to the self-righteous posture of the Western World which vehemently denounces every guerrilla raid but shyly reproaches the bloodier colonialist invasion.

An example of this hypocritical attitude was delivered to me at the Jordan Times the other day in the form of a reply to the article I wrote in this space last week about the recent "internal" Rhodesian settlement agreement (see page 2). The person who wrote the letter questioned my wisdom and authority to speak on the subject, he branded me a cynic and, also, naive. I will call him nothing in return. I will only say that he exhibited a singular lack of understanding of the point I raised in the article. I would have let it rest there had it not struck me that the kind of pronouncements this person made closely parrot those of the Western World in general when the issue is Rhodesia or Israel. These pronouncements must be silenced.

My point in last week's article was simply that both Britain and the United States were dishonest in their handling of the Rhodesian affair. After their long support for the Patriotic Front and their age-old rejection of the Smith regime as illegal anything short of outright condemnation of the "internal" Salisbury agreement can only be construed as dishonest. I am well aware that it is fashionable to separate politics from morality but if you don't want to call it dishonest behaviour you can call it cynical politics. It's all the same.

Anyone can spend a life-time babbling about "democracy" and accusing everybody else of being "undemocratic" as the letter-writer tries to do with me. I certainly am not interested in proving to him how much I believe in democracy but I want to tell him that it is totally beside the point to brandish statistics which claim that up to 85 per cent of Rhodesians support the three "moderates" who signed the agreement with Smith. The

world has yet to hear of the democratic election in which black Zimbabweans returned these percentage results. Further, the world knows, or should know, that Rhodesian news is censored, that the Patriotic Front is denied bases inside Rhodesia and that Ian Smith fully controls Rhodesian power — media-power, election-power and jail-power.

But the point is not which of the two black groups — the Patriotic Front or the three "moderates" — is the legitimate representative of Zimbabwe. The point is that Ian Smith is definitely not the legitimate representative of black Zimbabwe. Not only the Patriotic Front says so but also the Third World, the non-aligned nations and the sovereign black African states which tabled a motion at the United Nations and won a very democratic vote for a resolution condemning the agreement — and any agreement — with Ian Smith as "illegal and unacceptable". Hence, Britain and the United States are guilty of a shameful about-face and a dishonest — or cynical — act in suddenly withdrawing total support from the Patriotic Front as soon as the Salisbury agreement was signed.

The letter-writer prefers, however, to talk about other things. But even there he is mistaken if he believes he has justified his support for the Salisbury agreement on the grounds that the Patriotic Front has massacred innocent people in front of their families. I suppose he and the West will next tell us that Ian Smith's soldiers were having an innocent picnic inside Zambia 12 days ago. The truth is that when the letter-writer speaks of the Zimbabwean blacks of the Patriotic Front he strikes the same moral pose which the West strikes when it speaks of the Palestinians. Both these guerrilla forces, they tell us, are "terrorists" to be condemned for their immoral acts. However, when the colonialist regimes of Rhodesia and Israel invade Zambia and Lebanon morality takes a flight and only hard, cynical politics becomes the order of the day. These attacks, we are told, are simple acts of misguided trespass on other people's lands. They are unfortunate but necessary acts which we should only half-heartedly criticise because they are West-preserving, white-upholding sacred missions to teach the filth of the earth a lesson. When you don't agree with them they bombard you with a million branch issues designed to show you that you have no authority to speak, that you lack wisdom, that you are really cynical and, to top it all, that you are hopelessly naive.

is in London where he writes plays, directs, and acts. He is currently director of the Arab Arts Club there. He has appeared in Shaft in Africa, The Wind and the Lion, The Spy I Loved, The Aristocratic Touch, Space 1999, and The Saint. He recently directed a production of Othello in the Sadler Wells Theatre.

Haya Arts Centre, located in the Queen Alia Park, Schmeisani — although basically dedicated to the cultural development of the country's children — frequently opens its theatre to the production and presentation of adult entertainment. It has served as the nucleus of a developing system of centres

in various parts of Amman and other cities in Jordan. Within four to six weeks new art centres will be opening in Haj Nazzal, Jabal Amman, in Salt and in Karak, each complex including a children's library and theatre for dramatic works. Similar constructions are also being planned for the Ashrafieh area and the city of Irbid.

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Major oil pollution disaster looms over French Brittany coast as tanker splits in 2

BREST, France, March 17 (Agencies). The 233,000-ton super-tanker Amoco Cadiz broke apart today 5 kms. off the Brittany coast, less than 12 hours after running aground while fully loaded. Several kilometres of beach were covered with a brownish film with the main wave of pollution expected later. The front section of the ship was drifting towards the little summer resort port of Portsall, with a heavy list. The area where it was headed was littered with rocks.

Some 40 crew members were taken off the ship by helicopter working in darkness during the night. Only the captain and first officer remained aboard, and it was not known immediately whether they were in any danger.

French officials who flew over the ship reported that it had broken in two. They said that the sea was covered with oil over an area about 4 kms. around the ship.

A full pollution alert was ordered, but French navy ships loaded with chalk and detergent were unable to move into the area between the super-tanker and shore because of the rocks.

First checks had indicated that only one of the 15 sepa-

rate tanks on the ship had been pierced, but oil for the engines was seeping from a point near the engine room. The Liberian-registered Amoco-Cadiz, on its way from the Gulf to Britain with a cargo of crude oil, was apparently taken in tow earlier yesterday by the West German tug Pacific, after engine failure, the spokesman said.

But the cable snapped and after drifting for almost two hours, the Amoco-Cadiz went aground some three miles off the northwest coast of Finistere.

Two French naval helicopters, operating in darkness since the super-tanker had no lighting, took off the crew members in three relays. The Amoco-Cadiz is the fourth tanker

in the past 11 years to pollute the coast of Brittany. The first was the Torrey Canyon whose oil polluted the shores both in England and France in March 1967. In January 1976 the Olympic Bravery, a new 250,000 ton Onassis tanker, which was navigating empty, ran aground and eventually was broken in two. Three months were needed to clean up the coastline of the ship's fuel that washed ashore. In October 1976 the East German tanker Bohlen sank in a storm off Sein Island. Of the 36 crew members, 25 were killed or missing.

The race became yet more impetuous as the time approached for the Amsterdam options market to open for business. With the Dutch committed to start option trading in early April, the London Stock Exchange gave a somewhat reluctant blessing to plans for a U.K. options market, which seems likely to open around the middle of the year.

Not new for Europe Share options are not in themselves a new phenomenon for European investors. It has long been possible for U.K. investors to take an option to buy or sell shares at to-

day's price within three months. Buy options are termed "call", and sell options "put" transactions. The system was not widely used by private investors but was a mechanism by which a big stockholder could insure himself against a major swing in the value of his holding during, say, the period in which the company would disclose results.

But the newly proposed option markets would allow the original taker of an option to sell his option right on the open market, with the value of the option fluctuating as the time for its fulfilment drew near, or as the value of the shares themselves changed on the stock market.

It is this system, practised with considerable success on the Chicago Board Options Exchange since 1973, which has caught the imagination of both U.K. and Continental stockbrokers.

U.K. brokers respond U.K. stockbrokers were the

first to respond to syren notes from the Chicago Exchange, partly because they were heard in London just when stockbrokers were finding their earnings slashed by the virtual eclipse of the conventional share market during 1975.

The enthusiasm among U.K. stockbrokers put London ahead of its rival Continental bourses who were also beginning to show an interest in traded options. Indeed, this seemed a perfect opportunity for London to display its much-vaunted expertise in the securities trading business.

Early plans were sketched out for a London options market based upon the Chicago system, under which the "market" was made by profes-

sionals who simply walked on to the trading floor and entered into a noisy shouting match with would-be buyers and sellers.

But there were always some problems facing even the most ardent enthusiasts. First, London's jobbing system, which implies one or two jobbers holding the book in the shares underlying the options, meant that it would theoretically be possible to manipulate the option price.

Fear of encouraging speculation More significant, however, were the deeper-seated fears that an options market would lay the London Stock Ex-

change open to charges of encouraging speculation. These fears hung heavy around the necks of the less-than-enthusiastic Council, which was facing savage criticism in the wake of the slaughter of the small investor during the collapse of the equity market in 1974 and 1975.

Despite the continued interest of some major stockbroking names, the prospects for a U.K. traded options market faded. First the proposal for a fully-fledged Chicago style market was abandoned, and then plans for a joint venture with Amsterdam were similarly abandoned. London's current plans are for a restricted form of options market, in one corner of the ordinary trading floor, and with the all-important question of tax liability on option gains and losses still largely undecided.

Time will show, and probably very quickly, whether or not the Dutch have chosen wisely to be in the forefront of the European options market. At best, the market could increase investor interest and provide more flexible investment opportunities. But at worst, the options market could seriously upset dealings in some of Europe's biggest companies and perhaps even open the door to the kind of speculation which is no longer politically acceptable or socially desirable.

-- Financial Times News-Features

U.S. reports speak of unexpected increases in industrial output; predict inflation will slow down

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP). — Despite restraints from the coal strike and severe winter weather, U.S. industries managed a respectable 0.5 per cent increase in production in February, partially reversing a big January slowdown, the U.S. government reported yesterday.

The Federal Reserve Board said the weather and the coal strike probably kept the increase in production about 0.2 per cent lower than otherwise would have been. Production has declined by 0.8 per cent in January, one of the biggest declines since the 1974-75 recession.

The pace of production by the nation's mines, factories and utilities is an important indication of the relative health of the economy. If production increases, it means more jobs for American workers. Automakers accounted for a substantial portion of the February gain as auto assemblies increased by 3.8 per cent to an annual rate of 8.2 million units. While that is below the auto industry's projections for the year, it followed a substantial decrease in January. Auto assemblies in January had fallen to a 7.9 million level, down from 8.9 million in December.

Also increasing in February were production of consumer durable goods such as appliances and furniture, which had advanced 2.7 per cent, and business equipment, ahead 0.9 per cent during the month. Output of construction supplies also increased.

Inflation expected to slow down

Meanwhile, according to a forecast released yesterday in San Francisco by the Bank of America, U.S. inflation will slow down and the United States' gross national product will decline somewhat in 1978 while world economic growth remains moderate.

Consumer prices around the world are expected to rise 10 per cent in 1978, compared with a 12 per cent rise in 1977, said the report, released by the world's largest commercial banks.

Domestic inflation will fall somewhat, it predicted, from 6.5 per cent in 1977 to 5.9 per cent in 1978. "Many key countries are moving to stimulate their economies with carefully planned programmes which indicate a shift towards more expansionary policies," the report said.

But that expansion won't be inflationary, it predicted, because of a slack in utilisation of most countries' resources. It predicted global production would rise 4.3 per cent in 1978, the same as 1977's rate.

Domestic production is expected to increase 4.5 per cent, compared with 4.9 per cent in 1977. The report predicted production would be higher early in 1978 and decline throughout the year.

Production in Asia and Japan will decline while the GNP of Latin America is expected to grow 5.5 per cent, it said. Western European countries will probably experience modest growth as they attempt to juggle problems with currency, the report said.

Europe turns on to American success with options market

By Terry Byland of the Financial Times, London

LONDON, (F.T.). — Progress towards a European market in traded share options, which began years ago as a business-like venture, has turned into rather a hectic scramble over the past few months.

The race became yet more impetuous as the time approached for the Amsterdam options market to open for business. With the Dutch committed to start option trading in early April, the London Stock Exchange gave a somewhat reluctant blessing to plans for a U.K. options market, which seems likely to open around the middle of the year.

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-- Financial Times News-Features

People in the News

Annie Hall wins top academy awards

LONDON (AP). — Woody Allen's Annie Hall swept top film honours at the 1977 British Academy Awards ceremony Thursday night. Mr. Allen's semi-autobiographical movie won the best film, best direction and best actress awards presented annually by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Mr. Allen was named best director and Miss Dianne Keaton best actress for their work in Annie Hall. The Allen film also won the best screenplay and best film editing awards, voted by thousands of British film and television professionals who belong to BAFTA.

Solo flier lands in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP). — British Flight Lieutenant David Cyster, who has retraced a flight 50 years ago by aviation pioneer Bert Hinkler, landed yesterday in his recon- ditioned Tiger Moth bi-plane at Bundaberg, the town where Mr. Hinkler was born in 1882. The 38-year-old Briton arrived to a quiet reception from a small group of civic leaders and relatives of Mr. Hinkler. Mr. Cyster flew from England Feb. 7 to honour Hinkler's feat of making the first England-Australia solo in 1928. Mr. Hinkler left England in an Aerm Avian on Feb. 7, 1928 and reached Darwin 15-1 days later. Mr. Cyster took 17 days longer to reach Darwin.

KKK leader plans 10-day stay in Britain

LONDON (AP). — David Duke, the Ku Klux Klan leader from New Orleans, says he intends to stay in Britain for another 10 days, despite reports that he has violated a \$10,000 appeal bond back home. Mr. Duke, 27, who also is appealing against deportation from Britain, telephoned the British Press Association news agency Wednesday night and said he has spoken to his attorney in New Orleans who told him no warrant was out for his arrest. Mr. Duke came to Britain while on bail pending appeal against a 1977 conviction for inciting to riot at a Klan rally in Louisiana.

U.N. Asian-Pacific body discussed new world economic order

BANGKOK, Thailand March 17 (AP). — The 41-nation U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) today ended its 34th annual session with many of its members calling for greater momentum towards a new international economic order.

The ten-day meeting of the regional body was attended by about 220 delegates from 34 nations and a wide variety of international organisations which passed resolutions ranging from stepped up efforts in curbing the population in Asia to restoring the site of Buddha's birthplace in Nepal.

Observers at the conference said no innovative, concrete ideas or proposals about a more just economic system -- one of the keynotes of the conference -- emerged.

Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the Shah of Iran and Chairperson of the session, echoed the words of a number of Asian delegates when she told a closing news conference that "economic relations between the developed and the developing countries have not been favourable." But she, like most of the other delegates, did not publicly elaborate. ESCAP Executive Secretary J. B. P. Maramis said: "It's a global problem."

Newcastle University team claims tunnelling for off-shore oil would be cheaper, safer

Conventional methods of offshore oil production are often hazardous, always expensive. A Newcastle University study team suggest that tunnelling for oil under the sea would be safer, cheaper.

By Bruce Andrews Editor of the Financial Times North Sea Letter

LONDON, (F.T.). — The idea of tunnelling for offshore oil or gas is not new. But up to now the oil industry has not considered it as a serious proposition.

A Newcastle University study team with a mining background takes a completely different view. They regard the present methods of offshore development in the North Sea as far too hazardous and costly. Safety, they say, lies underground.

The leader of the team, Prof. Edward L. J. Potts, Head of the University's Mining Department, was closely associated with the Channel Tunnel project.

With the blessing of the Offshore Supplies Office and supported by a small grant, his team have been working on the study for almost six months and soon hope to present their first report.

First targets

The most likely first targets for tunnelling are thought to be in the busy English Channel, about 30 miles off the south coast, where exploration drilling is expected to start this year.

The team stress that their proposals are simply the logical extension of well-known and well-tried mining and civil engineering techniques. In many parts of the world, mine roadways stretch out many

miles under the sea and the precautions necessary to avoid subsidence or flooding present no difficulty to experienced miners.

"There is a considerable risk to life in today's offshore routine; there are equipment and system failures which would never have arisen in a more controlled environment," says Prof. Potts, citing the recent death of five workers in a fire on the Statford Field platform and the five per cent mortality rate of North Sea divers. "There also is a constant risk of blow-outs, and an increasing number of people are appalled at the constant threat of sea-shore pollution."

"Recent events have highlighted these dangers and concerned governments are making the oil companies invest further large sums of money in specialised and costly ships and equipments minimising the dangers of oil spillage and fire."

Easier containment of disasters

Prof. Potts claims that underground operations would allow fires and blow-outs to be contained far more easily.

"It is possible that some, perhaps all, of these risks could be eliminated altogether. The average British coal mine is probably far more dangerous than an underground oil installation, but the National Coal Board has not had a serious explosion or fire in the last 10 years."

The main underground con-

struction would probably be two tunnels running parallel, a short distance apart.

The oil rigs would be erected in caverns where the wells would be drilled and completed. A central cavern would contain essential production and control equipment. The crude oil would be pumped along pipelines to the shore. Under these conditions drilling and production could place without regard for weather.

Many of the services necessary on a platform would be completely eliminated, the team point out. For example, men need not live underground, unless the distance from the shore is very great.

Gone would be the costly problems of corrosion, fatigue and the inspection and repair of platform substructures and pipelines.

"As the study has advanced, more and more advantages have become apparent," says Prof. Potts. "From the public point of view, the principal advantage is that of complete freedom from pollution. The method is particularly attractive in areas where there are busy shipping lanes, such as the English Channel, or important fishing grounds, such as the Moray Firth. Tunnels also offer a more practical solution where deposits are found under very deep or stormy waters, or in arctic areas where ice makes the construction of permanent surface structures difficult if not impossible."

Cost competitive

The team also think that tunnelling would be cost competitive compared with present offshore oil production. Their first estimates suggest a direct cost saving of between 10 and 30 per cent. They point out, moreover, that co-

stings of present offshore development methods have invariably risen substantially above first estimates, partly due to unforeseen problems, and have recently become so high that some once-promising discoveries are now regarded as marginal.

Underground construction would permit costs to be predicted far more accurately and at the same time more flexibly.

Prof. Potts argues that the cost of an accident during the installation or operation of an offshore production rig can be enormous, because of the delay in oil production that follows. He cites the recent damage to the Heather field platform during installation, which has delayed production by about six months, and the shut-down on the Argyll field while the floating production platform is towed ashore for

the repair of structural damage. "There is little that can happen which would seriously delay the construction of a tunnel," he insists.

A mile a month

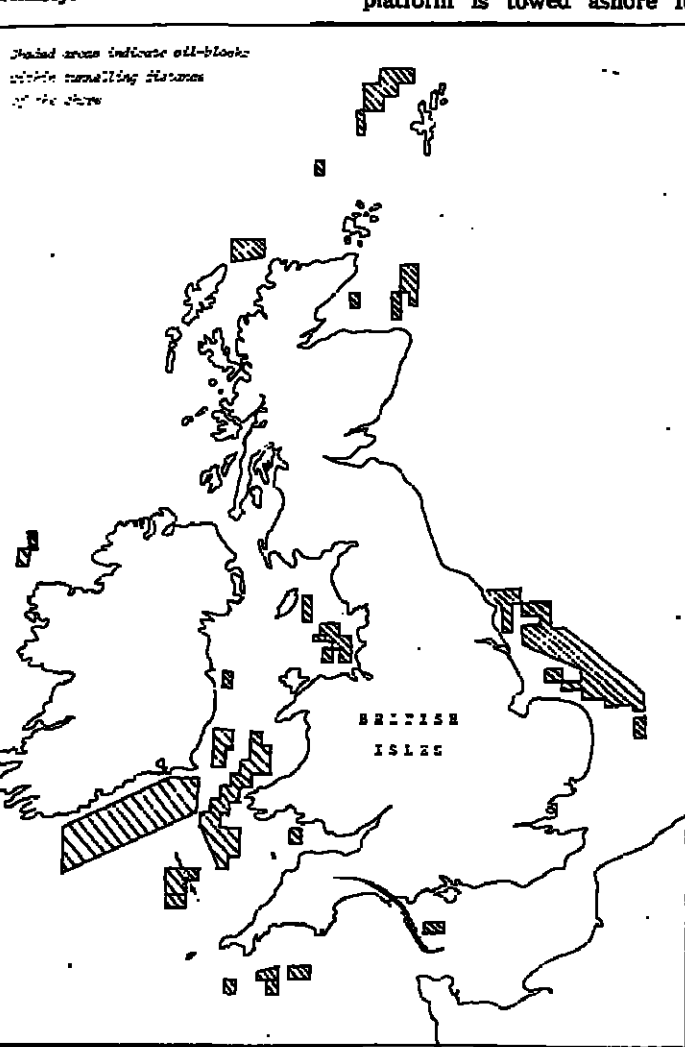
As their trump card, the team point out that exploitation by tunnels need not be confined to fields comparatively near the shore. The only real restriction on distance, they claim, is the time it takes to do the tunnelling -- about a mile a month, depending on rock conditions. And advances in tunnelling technology will surely reduce this time factor.

Where a field is big enough to need more than one platform, or where several fields are close to each other, the advantage moves heavily towards underground works, say the team, because the main expense is in driving out the tunnels. At great distances from the shore, a single, light surface structure could give access to a huge underground complex of wells and equipment.

Nevertheless a difficult phase lies ahead for the Newcastle enthusiasts. The team must now open discussions with the oil companies to see whether their proposals are acceptable or whether they can be faulted on one or more fundamental points.

The confrontation could be a tricky one. There will certainly be some resentment, albeit tacit, at the intrusion by the mining men into the sacred preserves of the offshore engineer. However excellent the ideas from Newcastle may be, there are many people in the oil and oil-related industries who are not going to like them.

-- Financial Times News-Features



LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian file Buying/Selling	
U.S. dollar	312.00/314.00
U.K. sterling	584.00/588.00
W. German mark	152.20/153.10
Swiss franc	161.10/162.00
French franc	66.00/66.40
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.30/36.50
Japanese yen (for every 100)	133.50/134.70
Dutch guilder	142.60/143.40
Belgian franc (for every 100)	97.50/98.50
Swedish crown	67.50/67.90

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R.). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.9142/47	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0342/57	West German marks
	2.1760/75	Dutch guilders
	1.8750/5900	Swiss francs
	31.60/64	Belgian francs
	4.6920/70	French francs
	856.00/857.00	Italian lire
	232.05/25	Japanese yen
	4.6070/85	Swedish crowns
	5.3170/90	Norwegian crowns
	5.5940/55	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Not received

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$182.20/oz.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1978

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GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have an opportunity early in the day to study your environment and improve conditions in the home. Later you are able to invite congenials into your home and entertain them, but don't become involved in any controversies.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact a financial expert for advice you need regarding a new project you have in mind. Allow time to engage in favorite hobby.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go over reports and make sure there are no errors in them. Make sure you carry through with promises you have made to others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Put your financial affairs in better order so that paying bills does not seem so difficult. Cut down on unnecessary expenses.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to be more objective in handling any matters that crop up today and you get excellent results. Be logical.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Stop procrastinating and rid yourself of petty annoyances that keep you from gaining your aims. Take needed health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Fine day to be with friends and to exchange good ideas for mutual betterment, solving personal problems. Control your temper.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle those civic matters well that will stamp you as an excellent citizen. Show more concern for the welfare of family members.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Before you make a radical change in your affairs, think about it carefully. Avoid expenditures that are too costly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make plans to improve the quality of your work and become more successful. Strive for happiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Modern ideas can be most helpful to you now provided you get the backing you need. Try not to criticize others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you attend to personal duties early in the day you'll have time to engage in favorite hobby later. Express happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take time to work on a particular talent you have so you can advance in career matters. Make new friends in the evening.

Marijuana and cocaine compete with coffee as Colombia's main foreign exchange earner

By Sarita Kendall

BOGOTA, (F.T.) — Colombia's main single source of foreign earnings has traditionally been coffee, but since the mid 1970's cocaine and marijuana have begun to compete, even at the recent high price for coffee beans. Attorney general Jaime Serrano Rueda told a visiting delegation from the United States Congressional Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control that he estimates current Colombian income from drug trafficking at \$8 bn. annually.

Most experts feel that this figure is far too high, and their estimates range from \$1 billion to \$3 billion -- coffee exports last year were worth \$1.4 bn. and foreign earnings totalled \$2.2 bn.

Illicit dollars

The flood of currency has

contributed to Colombia's grave economic problems. Not only do many of the drug dollars go straight into circulation but the attractiveness of marijuana as a low investment, high profit, cash crop is causing a drop in food production and boosting inflation.

Official attempts to hinder the exchange of illicit dollars for pesos has merely reinforced the tendency towards a parallel economy, complete with its own bankers and exorbitant interest rates. In the lawless Guajira region where smuggling is a universal occupation, the central bank has had to cut right back on the purchase of dollar bills because the sheer volume of them was too great for the bank's vaults.

The recently published report of the U.S. committee led by Congressman Lester Wolff stresses the "prevalence of local high level corruption," as

The export of marijuana and cocaine from Colombia earns as much foreign currency as coffee, the staple crop. A leading local coffee grower argues that the only solution is to legalise cannabis consumption.

a factor contributing to the widespread lack of respect for government and authorities. Not only have several senior secret police officers been arrested for drug trafficking but even the man in the street knows that some of the biggest drug smugglers are untouchable because of their high political standing. Before last month's congressional elections, the Magdalena Conservative Senator accused his own party rival of receiving campaign funds from the drug organisations in exchange for the inclusion of Mafia names on the electoral slate.

Marijuana plantations

Justice Minister Cesar Gomez Estrada estimates that in two states alone 30,000 hectares are currently under marijuana crops, while half as much again is spread across the rest of the country. Over a ton a year of powerful marijuana is harvested from each hectare, selling for \$10,000 to \$50,000 per ton, according to quality, quantity and proximity to shipping point.

High agricultural standards, with efficient irrigation systems and full mechanisation, as well as the generous wages

which easily draw farm labour away from low paid legitimate work, testify to the financial backing behind the marijuana plantations.

Hundreds of clandestine airstrips throughout the Guajira peninsula and the immense eastern Llanos plains, as well as long coastlines on two oceans, make vigilance near impossible. Despite recent interventions by Colombian jet fighters and gun boats, individual marijuana shipments of up to a hundred tons still regularly leave the country. Transport varies from small Cessna planes to the DC-6 which can carry over ten tons of marijuana, and from fishing boats to large freighters that dock regularly in Caribbean ports.

Cocaine output

Cocaine is even more difficult to control, and local narcotics officers estimate that from three thousand to ten thousand kilograms per month of refined cocaine pass through Colombia. The Bogota purchase price is around \$15,000 per kilo. By the time the drug reaches the consumer it has been cut to 10 per cent purity and is priced at \$80 to \$100 for a single gram at an overall profit of 6,666 per cent on the pure drug. Seventy per cent of the cocaine sold in the United States is believed to be refined in Colombia.

Little coca has traditionally been grown in Colombia, most of it reaching the country as part refined paste from the legal crops of Peru and Bolivia. However, over the last year investigators have found new plantations in various parts of the country, as well as disturbing signs that the heroin producers may be moving in. Police pressures on opium poppy production in Mexico seem to be behind the discovery of several experimental sowings in Valle and Cauca states.

Disciplined syndicates

Congressman Wolff reports that U.S. agents consider that "cocaine traffic is dominated by disciplined syndicates whose overall structure is superior to any other organisations in South America. Some gro-

ups operate as underworld multinational corporations, vertically integrated from the clandestine laboratories in Colombia to the state-side distributors."

A senior narcotics officer in Bogota said the trafficking organisations are becoming almost impossible to infiltrate as their methods grow more sophisticated and police equipment fails to keep pace. The United States recently donated three helicopters for narcotics operations but Colombian officers who put the responsibility firmly on the U.S. where the drug market lies, consider this a meagre contribution.

A high percentage of cocaine sales income -- and a lower proportion of marijuana earnings, which are more frequently in local Colombian hands -- remains outside the country, and large amounts are invested in incoming contraband. Transactions in dollars are also common in Colombia, but a minimum of half a billion illicit dollars a year are changed through quasi-legal channels into circulating pesos.

New rich investments

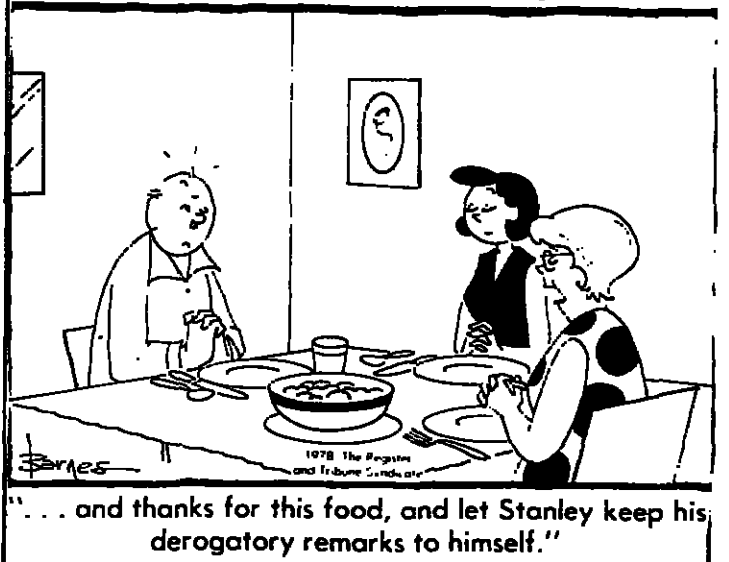
Since the government's exchange clamp-down, big sums in U.S. currency are reported to fetch as much as twenty per cent less than the official rate. Typically, the new rich are putting their drug profits into urban land and housing, cattle ranches, restaurants and, wherever possible, the big financial corporations traditionally controlled by the Colombian oligarchy.

There is a small but growing lobby for the legalisation of marijuana exports as the only method of regulating the trade and channelling some of the income into state coffers. The tendency in the principal consuming countries to decriminalise cannabis consumption is quoted by an influential coffee grower, Senor Leonidas Londono, in an argument that at the very illegality of the drug causes most social and economic harm. And Senor Londono joins many other Colombians in extolling the excellent quality of the country's marijuana.

-- Financial Times News-Features



THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:

6:00 Quran	10:20 Arabic series
6:15 Cartoons	7:30 Channel 6
6:30 Arabic Programme	7:45 News in Hebrew
7:00 Partridge family	8:30 Rhoda
8:00 News in Arabic	9:00 Variety
11:00 News in Arabic	10:00 Documentary
Channel 3:	10:15 News in English
7:20 Agriculture programme	Jordan's Water: A Re- port on Rural Claims
8:30 Arabic series	10:35 Crown Court
8:20 Reportage	

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Morning show	14:30 Arab scientists
7:30 News bulletin	14:45 Warar show
8:00 Morning show	15:00 Concert Hour
10:00 News bulletin	
10:30 Morning show	16:00 Pop session
11:00 Play of the week	17:30 Pop session
11:30 Signing off	18:00 News summary
12:30 News bulletin	18:05 Jumping Jack Flash
12:00 Pop session	18:10 News bulletin
13:00 News summary	18:20 Signing off
13:05 Pop session	
14:00 News bulletin	

BBC RADIO

GMT

05:00 News; Press Review	13:15 People and Politics
05:15 About Britain	13:30 News and Variations
05:30 Music for Voices	14:00 News
05:45 World Today	14:15 Do You Remember?
06:00 News; Press Review	14:30 What's New
06:30 Terry Wogan	15:00 Radio Newsweek
07:00 News; News about Britain	15:15 Saturday Special
	16:00 News; Commentary
	16:30 Command Performance
	17:00 News Summary; Satur- day Special
	17:15 What's New
	17:45 Sports Round-up
	18:00 News; News about Britain
	18:15 Radio Newsweek
	18:30 Theatre of the Air
	19:30 Frank Chacksfield
	20:00 News; Commentary
	20:15 People and Politics
	20:30 Command Performance
	21:00 Scotland Today
	21:15 The Melody Makers
	21:30 Letter from London
	22:00 News; Commentary
	22:00 News; Music Now
	22:40 Reflections
	22:45 Sports Round-up
	23:00 News; Commentary
	23:15 Letterbox
	23:30 Jazz for the Asking

VOICE OF AMERICA

05:00 The Breakfast Show:	18:30 Show Music USA
News	19:00 News and Topical Re- ports
to the hour and 26 min	19:15 News Horizons
utes after each hour.	19:30 Studio One
17:00 News and New Pro- ducts USA	20:00 Special English, News/ Worlds and their Stories
17:15 Critics Choice	20:15 News and New Produc- ts USA
17:20 Issues in the News	21:00 News and New Produc- ts USA
18:00 Special English, News/ Worlds and their Stories	21:15 Critics Choice
18:15 Feature: People in America, News Sum- mary.	21:30 Issues in the News
	22:00 World News; Commen- tary

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:

7:45 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Baghdad (AZ)
8:25 Dubai (AZ)	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:35 Muscat, Doha	8:45 Cairo (EA)
8:45 Tehran	9:00 Beirut
9:00 Karachi, Dubai	9:10 Rome (AZ)
9:30 Kuwait	10:30 Baghdad
	10:40 Bucharest (Tarom)
	11:00 Vienna, Amsterdam, Br- ussels
	11:30 Paris, Copenhagen
	12:00 London
	13:30 Cairo
	16:45 Damascus
	18:45 Jeddah
	20:00 Beirut (MEA)
	20:30 London (BA)
	20:30 Kuwait
	21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
	02:00 Damascus
	04:40 London (BA)

Departures:

6:30 Damascus, Munich, Fran- kfurt (LH)	
8:00 Aqaba	
8:15 Paris (AF)	
8:45 Beirut (MEA)	
8:45 Cairo (EA)	
9:00 Beirut	
9:10 Rome (AZ)	
10:30 Baghdad	
10:40 Bucharest (Tarom)	
11:00 Vienna, Amsterdam, Br- ussels	
11:30 Paris, Copenhagen	
12:00 London	
13:30 Cairo	
16:45 Damascus	
18:45 Jeddah	
20:00 Beirut (MEA)	
20:30 London (BA)	
20:30 Kuwait	
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai	
02:00 Damascus	
04:40 London (BA)	

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	27009
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	42433
Amman Municipal Library	36111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	24391-4
Fire headquarters	22090
Firebrigade, fire, police	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36881-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37113-3
Police headquarters	39141
Najdah roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 37777
Airport information (Alia)	58205

Doctors:

Amman:

Bassem Arsheed (75628)

Zakaria Shannan (77835)

Irbid:

Amia Abu Abdo (2378)

Zarqa:

Yahya Tarib (62884)

Taxis:

Thaqi (23204)

Pharmacies:

Amman:

Sabbagh (23157)

Faroo (60858)

Obman (74497)

Irbid:

Alwadih

Zarqa:

Thaqi

Thaqi

U.N. council expected to condemn Rhodesian invasion of Zambia

UNITED NATIONS, March 17 (AP) -- Diplomats generally predicted that the United Nations' Security Council would adopt a resolution later today to condemn Rhodesia's recent invasion of Zambia and call on Britain to put "a speedy end" to the rebellious territory's white-minority government. The 15-nation council expected to finish debate on a Zambian complaint against the March 6-8 invasion at its third meeting on the subject in as many days.

The resolution also commended Zambia for supporting Rhodesia guerrillas in a "just and legitimate struggle for ... freedom" and said that in case of further Rhodesian attacks on Zambia, the council would meet again to consider "more effective measures".

The Rhodesian army said it raided a guerrilla camp in Zambia, killed 38 Rhodesian guerrillas of the Patriotic Front, organisation and saw no Zambians around. Zambia, on the other hand, said 22 Zambian soldiers were killed and did not mention guerrillas.

Indian Ambassador Rishi Jalpal introduced the resolution yesterday on behalf of seven sponsors -- India, Kuwait, Bolivia and the three African members of the council, Gabon, Mauritius and Nigeria.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdullah Yaquob Bishara accused the Rhodesian government of attacking Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Mozambique to force them to abandon their opposition to white rule in Rhodesia.

Canadian Ambassador William Barton said the raid resulted from "the senseless determination of a repressive administration to maintain its privileges at whatever cost".

Pretoria meeting

Meanwhile, in Washington, State Department officials said the U.S. will have an observer

from its South African Embassy at today's meeting in Pretoria between British diplomat John Graham and Jack Gaylard of Rhodesia's white minority government.

The meeting will give Mr. Graham a chance to formally explain the Anglo-American call for a meeting with all Rhodesian factions to the government of rebel Prime Minister Ian Smith.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and British Foreign Secretary David Owen have already met with the leading black nationalist groups, including the two which are waging guerrilla war from outside the country.

State Department sources, speaking privately, said so far the United States has no indication that the guerrilla leaders are willing to sit down with the other black nationalists and with Mr. Smith.

London talks

In London, meanwhile, there was a flurry of diplomatic activity yesterday on the Rhodesian issue, with black nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa arriving in London for talks with Foreign Secretary Owen.

In another development, Chief Jeremiah Chirau, another black Rhodesian leader now in London, told a news conference that he has asked Britain's opposition Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher to

endorse publicly the internal settlement between white Rhodesian Prime Minister Smith and the moderate blacks.

Chief Chirau, Bishop Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole are co-signers of the agreement with Mr. Smith.

U.S. Senate approves Panama Canal Accord

WASHINGTON March 17 (AP) -- The U.S. Senate gave grudging approval yesterday to the first of two Panama Canal Treaties, clearing the way for action on a second accord that would gradually return the waterway to Panama by the United States.

The vote count was 68 to 32, one vote more than the two-thirds margin required by the Constitution.

The vote occurred on the 22nd day of debate and after intensive last-minute lobbying by the Carter administration and the Democratic and Republican Party leaders of the Senate.

The Neutrality Treaty approved yesterday commits the United States and Panama to guarantee that the canal will remain open to all shipping after Jan. 1, 2000, when the Panamanian government would assume control of the waterway.

It is the second part of the treaty, which will be taken up next month, that would actually turn over the canal to Panama.

The agreement was amended to include language establishing the right of the United States to intervene, militarily if necessary, to keep the canal open. Another change guarantees U.S. warships the right to move to the head of the line to go through the canal in time of emergency.

The Senate now moves immediately to begin debate of the second treaty, which deals with the transfer of control. Several senators said their votes for the Neutrality Treaty should not be taken as an in-

Italian parliament votes new cabinet into office

ROME March 17 (AP). -- Premier Giulio Andreotti's new all-Christian Democrat government was voted into office early today by a majority that included the Communists for the first time in three years. The voting in the Chamber and the Senate was carried out in a tense atmosphere soon after Marxist terrorists kidnapped Signor Aldo Moro, Christian Democrat leader and probable next president.

The government drew an overwhelming vote with most politicians calling for a united front against the escalation of political violence.

The vote sealed the largest majority ever in Italy's post-war parliament.

Rightist opposition came from the conservative Liberals and the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement which objected to the Communist-Christian Democrat pact while two small leftist parties also voted against the government.

Carter warns Soviets

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina March 17 (AP). -- U.S. President Jimmy Carter today coupled a call for a strong defence programme with a warning to the Soviet Union and Cuba that military restraint is a two-way street.

In his first major defence policy address since taking office, President Carter said the United States stands ready to cooperate with the Soviets on social, scientific and economic programmes. Then he added a caution: "But if they fail to demonstrate restraint in missile programmes and other force levels and in the projection of Soviet or proxy forces into other lands and continents, then popular support in the United States for such cooperation will erode."

President Carter made no direct mention of Soviet and Cuban forces in Africa, but his meaning was clear.

World News Briefs

China announces nuclear test explosion

TOKYO, March 17 (AP). -- China announced today it has "successfully" conducted a new nuclear test explosion on Wednesday. The announcement was made by Peking Radio in a Chinese-language broadcast monitored in Tokyo. The broadcast said "all persons engaged in research and manufacturing of nuclear weapons have made a contribution to the promotion of the modernisation of China's national defence." However, the broadcast made no mention on the yield range, test site, and other details of the exploded nuclear device.

Bomb blast kills 5 Turkish students

ISTANBUL, March 17 (R). -- Five students were killed and 45 wounded when a bomb was thrown on the campus of Istanbul University here yesterday, police reported. They said the bomb was thrown at a group of leftist students as they entered the university after lunch. They had all gone through security checks. The five students died on the spot and 45 others were taken to hospital. Fourteen of them were said to have serious injuries. In a separate incident earlier in the day, the head of Istanbul's Police Political Department, Mr. Ugur Gur, was shot and wounded when gunmen ambushed his car near the city walls.

Another black S. African "homeland"

SIBASA, South Africa, March 17 (Agencies). -- The South African Bantustan of Venda will shortly request its independence, sources close to the black homeland's tribal executive said here last night. Venda would be the third of South Africa's nine Bantustans to be granted independence under Pretoria's apartheid policies, after the Transkei in October, 1976 and Bophuthatswana last December. But before independence, South Africa would remove a strip of territory on the frontier with Rhodesia, along the Limpopo River, so that Venda would be entirely surrounded by South Africa. The move would be intended to "halt guerrilla infiltrations" in case an anti-South-African regime came to power in Salisbury, observers said.

Vanguard 1 marks 20 space years

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP). -- Vanguard 1, the world's longest orbiting satellite, celebrates its 20th year in space today and expects to stay up another 400 years or so. The only three satellites launched before Vanguard 1, Russia's Sputnik 1 and 2 and America's Explorer 1, long ago fell back into the atmosphere. Vanguard 1 has outlived them because atmospheric drag is minimal on its small size and high orbit. The grapefruit-sized spacecraft weighs only 3.25 pounds and its orbital path ranges out to 2,458 miles. The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, which developed the satellite, estimates it should remain aloft another four centuries.

Genetic manipulation risks come under U.S. government scrutiny

By Warren E. Leary

WASHINGTON (AP) -- U.S. government scientists soon will begin long-awaited tests to assess potential risks of recombinant DNA research, a controversial form of genetic manipulation that could revolutionize biology.

Even before these first tests begin, saying in April, critics are saying the experiments at nearby Fort Detrick should have been done before scientists made their commitment to gene-splicing -- possible benefits notwithstanding.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists will do the risk assessment at two facilities near Washington.

Learning if organisms altered by recombinant DNA methods can infect animals and survive outside special laboratory conditions has been talked about for more than a year. Experiments were supposed to have begun last November.

A lawsuit by Ferdinand Mack delayed the startup. The Frederick, Maryland, lawyer contended the experiments at nearby Fort Detrick did not comply with national environmental laws. On Feb. 23, a U.S. district court judge ruled the experiments posed no substantial human risk. An appeals court upheld the decision last week.

Recombinant DNA research manipulates deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), the basic genetic component of life. The research splits and transfers genetic material from one species of organism to another, creating life forms not found naturally.

Proponents say the work may unravel questions basic biology. They also think experiments could lead to new drugs and vaccines. Plants that do not need fertilizer, and microorganisms "factories" that could make large quantities of insulin.

Dangers and risks

Critics say the work could

build virulent disease organisms. Should they escape the laboratory, critics contend, humans, animals and plants might be caught without defenses.

These concerns led NIH to issue safety guidelines for the research in 1976. Congress still is considering legislation to limit and control the work. "The risks still all remain potential," Dr. William J. Gattand, Director of NIH's Office of Recombinant DNA Activities, said in an interview. "People have been doing recombinant DNA work for four years and have had no ill effects."

Critics like Dr. Jonathan King, a biologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, say assessing a new technology should be done before any commitment is made to it. He says many scientists are moving into recombinant DNA research with little proof that it is as safe as they believe.

Mr. King agreed with proponents that the most common host organism now used in the research, a bacterium called *Escherichia coli* K-12, probably is safe. "But there are definite indications some other host organisms are being used or contemplated and we have no idea what the risks associated with them are," he said.

Zaire executes 13 "plotters"

KINSHASA, Zaire March 17 (AP). -- Thirteen soldiers and civilians were executed in Zaire today, after being sentenced to death yesterday by a military court for plotting against the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko. A 14th person -- a woman adjutant -- was reprieved from facing the firing squad.

The 14 sentenced to death were among 91 Zairese whose trial for plotting against the state started before the military court last week and ended yesterday. The military prosecutor had asked for 28 death sentences. Most of the accused were military, including two majors.

The discovery of the alleged plot followed rural riots in the central Bandundu Province which were quelled in an alleged bloodbath, according to opponents of President Mobutu. Official Zairese and Belgian sources confirmed the uprising and succeeding measures.

Antarctic ice-cap thawing threatens to submerge whole countries within 50 years

By Kenneth Sharpe

WASHINGTON, (WFS) -- A new warning that a large part of the Antarctic ice-cap could melt in 50 years time, submerging whole countries in the resulting rise in sea-level, has come from an American scientist.

Professor J. H. Mercer, of the Institute of Polar Studies at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, says that fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, are increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and that this in turn is creating a "greenhouse-warming" effect in the atmosphere. He says: "I contend that a major disaster -- a rapid five metres rise in sea level caused by deglaciation of West Antarctica -- may be imminent or already in progress." Such a rise in sea-level would submerge low-lying countries such as the Netherlands, and also low regions of other countries, such as eastern Britain, Florida in the United States, and millions of acres of land in all other parts of the world.

Carbon dioxide warming

The contention of Professor Mercer, reported in the international science magazine Nature, and many other scientists studying the "greenhouse-warming" effect, is that the worldwide use of fossil fuels to run industry and transport and to heat homes is resulting in increasing amounts of carbon dioxide gas being trapped in the atmosphere, which is

A scientist in the United States has predicted that in 50 years, if fossil fuels continue to be used, the western part of Antarctica will melt and the resultant rise in sea-level will swamp whole countries.

being warmed up by this phenomenon. Professor Mercer says this is particularly significant in high latitudes, and that the computed temperature rise at latitude 80 degrees South, that is, in the Antarctic, could lead to rapid deglaciation.

If fossil fuels continue to be used at their present increasing rate, then the concentration of carbon dioxide necessary to bring about major climatic changes such as the melting of the Antarctic ice will be reached in 50 years from now -- about 2030 -- or, if consumption of fossil fuels is held at today's level, in about 200 years time.

Some scientists believe that it is already too late, and that even if there was a massive conversion to other sources of energy, such as nuclear power and solar energy, it is still too late, because of the amount of time it would take to achieve such conversion.

The scientists who are carrying out this research are the first to admit that the models they have used to chart what might happen vary because of the differing techniques used, while there are those who feel that factors such as seasonal variability of snow and ice cover could indicate global cooling instead of hotting-up. Professor Mercer, however,

says: "We cannot afford to let the atmosphere carry out the experiment before taking action, because if the results confirm the prognosis, and we should know one way or the other before the end of the century, it will be too late to remedy the situation." Since about 1940, temperatures have dropped over much of the Northern Hemisphere, but the feeling is that this has lulled us into a false sense of security. In Antarctica, the warming trend has been confirmed, however, by scientific measurements.

Five metre sea level rise

If the scientists such as Professor Mercer are right, then what will happen is that much of western Antarctica will, quite simply, melt away, adding about five metres to the sea level of every coast. The Antarctic ice-sheet consists of two unequal parts, the mainly land-based sheet of the east and the younger and smaller ice sheet of the west which is mostly marine-based and includes the Ross ice-shelf. Because of its nature, the western part of the icecap is more susceptible to temperature change, and if the ice-shelves melted because of increased temperatures so would much of the

marine ice-sheet over west Antarctica.

The result of this would be the rising of sea-level and the splitting of the massive continent of Antarctica into east Antarctica, about two-thirds of the present total, and a few shattered islands which would be all that was left of west Antarctica.

A warning sign of the beginning of the break-up of west Antarctica would be if the ice-shelves began to break-up, and Professor Mercer calls for a satellite watch on the shelves to monitor any such trend. He also points to the need for more sophisticated climatic modelling to give more accurate forecasts. In any case, there is a body of opinion among scientists studying the Antarctic that the western ice-sheet is inherently unstable, and could break up over about 100 years because of its own volition rather than from any man-made climatic changes.

In the natural course of events, the level of warmth which might melt the ice of the west Antarctic might be reached about once in half a million years, perhaps as a consequence of a combination of the astronomical factors which are now seen as responsible for the timing of the major glacial-interglacial climatic changes.

The only thing, Professor Mercer believes, that would make this happen in the foreseeable future would be man's massive injections of carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere.

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1978 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1--North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
+K7 +AJ92 +KQ82 +AJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1NT Pass 2NT 3♦
What action do you take?

Q.2--Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
+KQ10952 +7 +K32 +J105
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
2NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3--As South, vulnerable, you hold:
+QJ943 +84 +A76 +952
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
3♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4--Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
+Q105 +6 +QJ83 +98643

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1♥ Dble. ?
What action do you take?

Q.5--As South, vulnerable, you hold:
+9862 +Q107 +10763 +83
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Dble. Pass 1♦
Pass 3♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6--As South, vulnerable, you hold:
+762 +A8 +Q5 +AKJ1075
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.7--Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
+J92 +75 +AJ87 +KJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1♦ Dble. ?
What action do you take?

Q.8--East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
+KQ85 +AJ107 +62 +KJ8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ Dble. Pass ?
What do you bid now?

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IRROG

DEGEH

WETING

GAPOAD

WHAT HE WAS AWARDED WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM DOG TRAINING SCHOOL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A "O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNARL GUILF TURKEY CASHW
Answer: Why a truck driver who was going the wrong way down a one-way street wasn't arrested -- HE WAS WALKING

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Sparoid fish
- Neptune
- Unmixed
- One: dialectic
- 100 square meters
- Miss Fitzgerald
- Appendix
- Marsh hen
- Treatment
- Nuclear
- Gem surface
- Sesame
- Trygve Halvdan
- Deemed proper
- Guaranteed league
- Size of coal
- New stars
- Marvel
- Enzyme
- Gist or crux
- Enriled
- Peel
- Pewter coin
- Guido's note
- Coasting vehicle
- Salt, in chemistry
- Edge
- DOWN
- Algonquian
- Associated form
- Minimizes
- Shoelace
- Biblical character
- Soapstone
- Noun suffix
- Cabbage trees
- Sunshine State abbr.
- Sloths
- Exposés
- Metal worker
- Girl's name
- Bad: prefix
- Agreed
- Robot drama
- Maritime
- Simple sugar
- Electric units: abbr.
- Contract
- Dark plain on the moon
- Medieval money
- Yale
- Weir

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